



REFUGEE

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An Introduction to Refugee Resettlement

November 13, 2006

What is a Refugee?

Today there are people who are forced to flee their homes and their countries, because of their race, religion, or other beliefs.

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If they survive,
they are refugees.



Definition of Refugee

A refugee is a person with a well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

What is an Asylee?

- Has a well founded fear of persecution
- Already entered on to U.S. territory
- Request asylum - protection

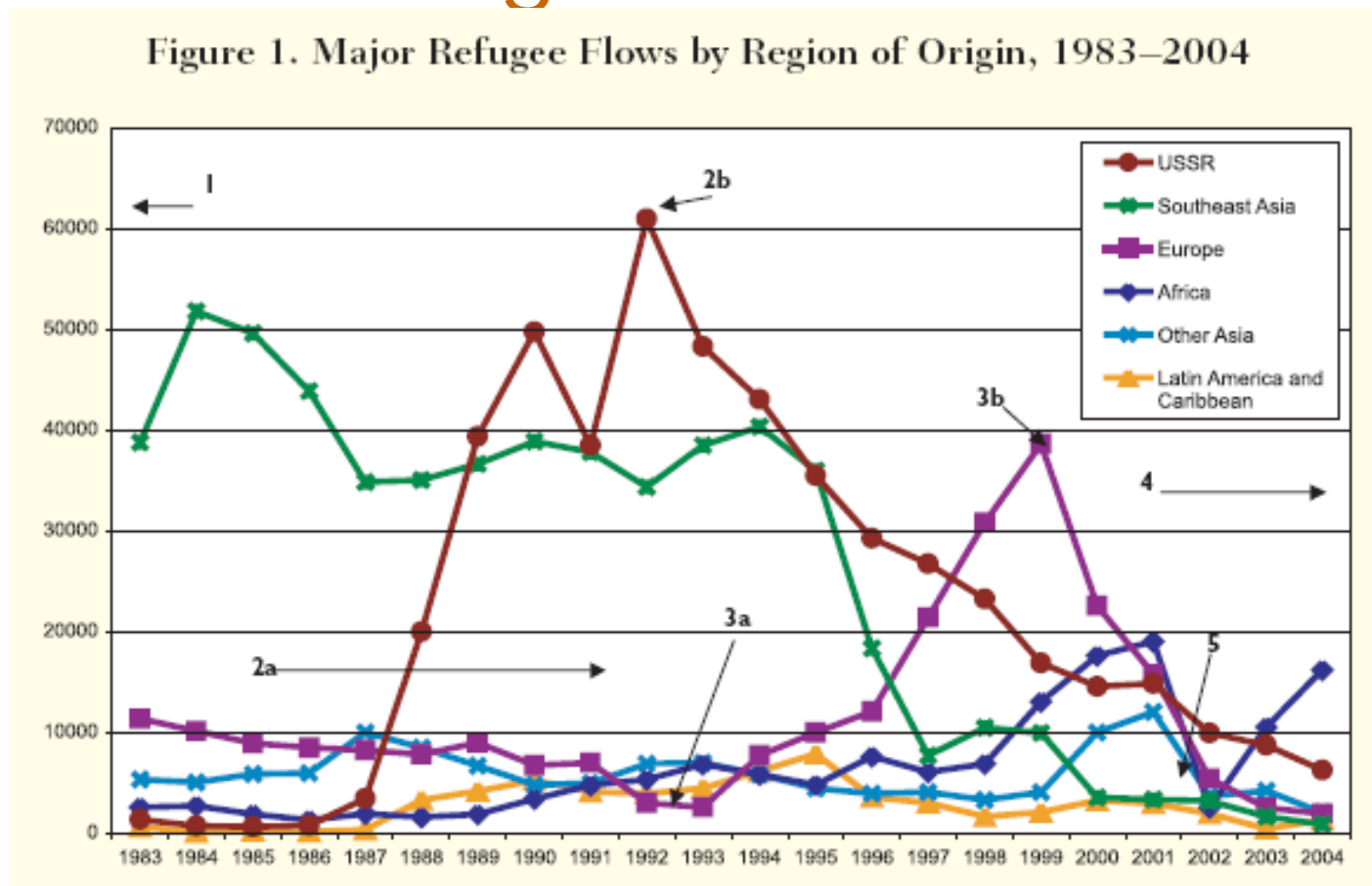
Why are Refugees Here?

- Civil war
 - Internally Displaced Persons
- Cross borders into second countries
 - Refugees in countries of first asylum
- Temporary protection
- Cannot repatriate (return home)
- Third country resettlement

What is an Immigrant?

- Economic migration
- Natural disasters
- Seek better and more prosperous lives by voluntarily leaving their native country
- Can repatriate any time

Where do refugees come from?



New Refugee Group

- From Burma (Myanmar)
- Karen People
- Karen refugees flee to Thailand
- Stateless children

Utah's Refugee demographics 1995 - 2005

- Asia - 955
- Former Soviet Union - 565
- Eastern Europe/Balkans - 3976
- Middle East - 1014
- Africa - 2681
- Other - 321

Diversity of Refugees in Utah

- 59 ethnicities and nationalities
- More than 53 languages spoken in Utah by refugees

What do refugees bring to Utah?

- Refugees work hard and become productive residents of our state
- Refugees open new businesses
- Refugees increase diversity
- Refugees become U.S. citizens

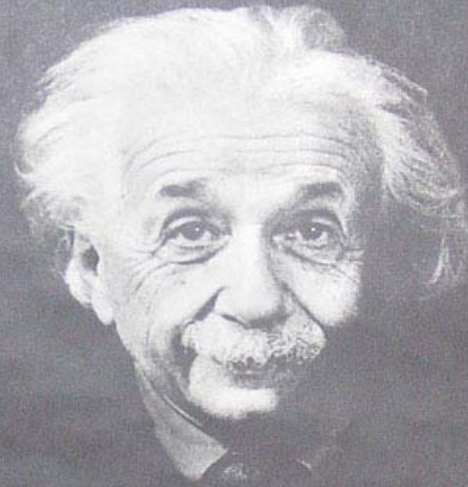
Prominent refugees

- Madeleine Albright
- Frederic Chopin
- Marlene Dietrich
- Phillip Emeagwali

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**A bundle of belongings
isn't the only thing a refugee
brings to his new country.**



Courtesy of Bettmann Archives

Einstein was a refugee.



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Refugee Resettlement in the United States

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

- Refugee Act of 1980
 - Authorizes services and assistance
 - Authorizes work in the U.S.
 - Eligibility for Federal assistance programs such as financial and medical assistance

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHCR

Department of State

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Health and Human Services

Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration
PRM

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
USCIS

Office of Refugee Resettlement
ORR

Voluntary Agencies
VolAg

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- UNHCR
- 1951 Refugee Convention
 - Safeguards the rights and well-being of refugees
- Identifies refugees and people of concern
- Leads international effort to protect

Department of State

- Works with UNHCR
- Responsible for overseas operations
- Provides for Reception and Placement (R & P) services
- Arrival and initial resettlement of refugees through the national voluntary agencies

Dept. of Homeland Security

- Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Refugee Corps
 - Processes applications
- Coordinates security background checks

Voluntary Agencies

- The Department of State Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration has Cooperative Agreements with national **Voluntary Agencies** or VolAgs.
- 10 National agencies
- Cooperative Agreement
 - Operational Guidance

Health and Human Services

- Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
- Responsible for the services for refugees after their arrival in the U.S.
- Coordinates domestic resettlement activities with states



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Utah's Refugee Resettlement System

Utah Resettlement Agencies

- ✚ Catholic Community Services
- ✚ International Rescue Committee
- ✚ Authorized to bring refugees directly from overseas

Resettlement Agency Responsibilities

- Operational Guidance
- Reception and Placement (R & P)
- Core services
- Responsible for resettlement outcomes
 - Dept of State funds R & P, 30 days
 - 90 and 180 day outcomes

Core Services

- Reception services
 - Meet refugee at airport
 - Housing and utility connection
 - Food available on arrival plus one day's worth of additional food supplies

Core Services: (continued)

● Housing

- Acceptability
- Safe, sanitary and in good repair

● Safety

- All areas free of visible health and safety hazards

Core Services (continued)

● Furnishing

- Bed for each person
- Kitchen table and chairs
- One chair per person
- One couch or equivalent seating
- Lamps if necessary
- Storage units (drawers, etc.)

Core Services (continued)

- Kitchen items
- Linens and other household supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Toiletries
- Clothing

Core Services (continued)

- Intake interview
- Home visit within 24 hours for free cases
- Proper transportation to services (time limited)
- Acculturation orientation

Core Services (continued)

- Application for benefits (financial, Food Stamps, Medical)
- Application for social security card
- School enrollment
- Health screening and child immunization
- Home visit

Core Services (continued)

- ✚ Employment orientation
 - ▣ Assessments
 - ▣ Development of job seeking skills
 - ▣ Assistance with job placements
- ✚ Development of employment plans
- ✚ Referral to services
- ✚ Resettlement plan

Core Services (continued)

- Selective Service registration
- Ongoing referrals and counseling
- Job search assistance and job placement

Health Department

- Refugee Health Program
 - Health Screening of all new refugees
 - Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance
 - Immunizations
 - Medical follow up
- Pandemic planning

Department of Workforce Services

- Cash assistance
 - Family Employment Program
 - Refugee Cash Assistance
 - General Assistance
- Food stamps
- Medical assistance eligibility
- Child care

Department of Workforce Services (continued)

- Case management (if on assistance)
- Employment services
- Training services
- Youth services
- Unemployment Insurance
- Community resource information



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Impacts to Other Services

Public Education

- K12 enrollment of children
 - Language and culture issues
 - No Child Left Behind challenges
- English language training for adults

Human Services

- Division of Child and Family Services
- Office of Recovery Services
- Aging Services
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Mental Health Services

- Victims of war and torture
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Effects of war, displacement, relocation
 - Children and adults
- Non-traditional treatment methods
 - Culture and language

Public Safety

- Emergency Planning and Preparation
 - Communication with refugee groups
 - Community education
- First responders
 - Communication issues

Community and Culture

- Office of Ethnic Affairs
- Arts Council

Salt Lake County

- Community Resource Development
 - Targeted Assistance Program
- Aging Services

Impacts to Cities

- Salt Lake City

- District 2

- High density housing

- South Salt Lake City

- Somali Bantu

- Larger unit housing



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For more information about the
Refugee Working Group visit:

www.jobs.utah.gov/refugeeworkinggroup